

Journal by Mabel Hubbard Bell, September 20, 1887, with transcript

ORIGINAL COPY PLACED IN "D- 1 2 " folder Copied from the Journal of Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell, dated September 20, 1887. Baddeck.

Auntie Kittie and Dr. Marsh with their children and Lina left last night, and the house seems very quiet and empty without them. It was delightful having them here, and I think the children have laid the foundation of a friendship that will be lasting. The boys and my girls seemed very fond of each other. Daisy especially followed Elias all around and was very much pleased with his slightly patronizing attention to her. Both boys are fine manly little fellows and gentle with Daisy and their sisters. With Elsie they were more inclined to fight with fists and words. They are much more advanced than my children in school book knowledge, but Elsie is much more matured than Robert. Elsie I hope has had her ambition stirred by seeing how much more the boys know. They had a game one evening of naming the generals of the Northern army in the Civil War, and Elsie would have come out very badly but for my help. Finally she set the climax to the boys entertainment and her own mortification by naming "Benedict Arnold." Amid the shouts that greeted the name she asked who he was! Robert is reading Ivanhoe and Elias is going on with his Latin lessons. He says he is going to be a soldier, a general, and Robert will have to be the doctor. He was quite interested in Alec's Genealogical work and asked Alec if cousins could marry. Alec told him it depended on the presence or absence of any defect in the family, if any existed such marriages tended to bring it out. So he turned to Elsie remarking "So I can't have you!"

Auntie Kittie and I took several drives together and I enjoyed them very much. I had no idea she had so much pluck and go in her, she goes every where. One day she followed me through brooks, over-fallen trees, under over-hanging rocks and branches, up a lovely

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little mill-stream and 2 another she went with Lina and me to Red Head in a pouring rain. It wasn't raining much when we started and as the barometer was rising I felt confident the rain would soon be over. But it only fell faster and faster until we were drenched through all the cranks and crannies of our waterproofs. Still she wanted to go on and I think was much disappointed when after getting down twice in the wet grass to open gates and fences Lina's and my courage evaporated and we turned homewards. We also took all the children to Whycocomgh while Alec and Dr. March were away. Sultan Elias having announced the evening before that he wouldn't go and Robert and Daisy accordingly saying they would stay with him. I felt so uncertain the next morning if we were going that, Auntie Kittie, Mary, Perrin, the boys and my children, Lina and I were all in the wagonette before I discovered that we were already a tight fit and there were Hannah and the two other little girls to squeeze in. How we managed to get twelve people into a vehicle intended for six I don't know, but we did it and arrived safely at our destination, the wharf, although I held my breath at every jolt and remembered with dismay that the springs were at no time strong enough for the wagon! Our last excursion was to the Falls of Usige Ban where we had our lunch in the barn and came home wild over the beauty of a lovely Gaelic maid there. Such great blue saucer eyes, such pretty yellow hair and pure oval face, graceful shy carriage with one brown finger in the perfect mouth, clean cut English features and brown legs and feet that seemed never to have known the pressure of shoes. She reminded me of Sir F. Leighton's Fisher Girl. Of English she knew scarce a word and Alec's attempts at learning her own wild tongue amused her and almost drew her from her shy place in the doorway.

It is too provoking that Alec should have sprained his foot yesterday coming down the steps of the printing office. Dr. Marsh has put it in a plaster of Paris bandage and today it is only too comfortable rendering him 3 most anxious to get it off altogether and be doing all sorts of reckless things.

Dr. Marsh had written to secure four staterooms for his party a week ago and his surprise indignation and annoyance was great and justifiable when he discovered that none

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had been retained for him, and that after the steward had told him it would be all right. However, he saw nothing to do but send his poor babies to get what sleep they could before being called at 3 a. m. to spend the rest of the night on the hard wooden benches of the steamers cabin, so we said Goodbye and came home.,- I supposing Alec couldn't do anything because of his foot. He however, saw otherwise. Fuming with indignation he ordered the wagon around again, drove down to the steamer, saw the steward and captain himself and ended by kicking up such a row that he got two staterooms for them and had a power of attorney signed by Dr. Marsh to enable him to prosecute the company.